

Thirgham, July 3, 1837.

My dear Miss Weston,

I have long been indebted to you for a letter, & more recently, for various pamphlets upon the great Subject. I ought to have made my acknowledgements before this, particularly for the letter, as it contained such a kind and hearty invitation to share your "couch, and bread & butter," during the anniversaries. I did not receive the letter until they were all over or you would have seen me, for I could not have resisted the warm invitation, and the flattering manner, in which you promised to receive me. I was glad to receive an account of the doing of the conventions of women at N. York. I was not sure that there had been a convention until I received your pamphlet upon the subject. I read a notice in the paper that there had been a congregating of women in the city of N. Y. but the writer gave the account in such a manner, and made the whole appear so ridiculous, that I thought it might be all a hoax. I read & have read their proceedings and the appeal with much interest, and find little or nothing to object to in either. The Resolves are very spirited and powerful, & express a great deal in a few words.

61,0
But almost every thing has been put out of my head this last week, by Miss Martineau's book. What tirades the Newspaper Editors are making against her. Is it not shameful, abominable. I was not aware that they were writing under her last until a day or two ago, I read her chapter upon the American women.

papers. It is manifest that they feel her censure pretty keenly, but they would appear wiser if they would take their revenge in some other way. Mr. Smith procured the book about a week ago for our Reading Society. We of course had the first reading, and I run it hastily through in the two days allotted us. We besides invited the Society & some few others, whom we thought would be particularly interested in it, to meet here last week, to hear it read, & they met every evening, until Sat. in succession. I think the book very interesting. She speaks her mind with great freedom and boldness, and although she may have been unjust to individuals, she certainly speaks in the highest terms of our Country, our institutions, & our destiny. I think she sometimes comes to wrong conclusions from a few facts, her generalizations are not always correct, but it is not surprising. I am more surprised, that she learned so much that is unquestionably true, about our government and our society here, in the short time that she was with us. I have not yet seen the second volume. The grave charge of intemperance among American ladies, I hear, is in that. As far as I know of Society in America, there is little foundation for such a charge. She gives the Abolitionists high praise, and we have been quite amused, that Mr. Baker, who is more opposed to Abolitionists than any person that I know, happened to come in to hear the book read, just as she was treating of that subject. He opened and shut his mouth a few times, and twisted in his chair, but he bore it like a martyr, said nothing, and made no comments after the reading was finished.

Are you not coming down to see us pretty soon Miss Weston. It is treason against nature, for you Citizens, to stay in your city during this delightful season, if you can get out of it. The Country never looked more beautiful than at the present time.

Mr Smith and myself rode over to Braintree last week. We went about one mile beyond your father's, & enjoyed it exceedingly. What a delightful place Weymouth is. The scenery about the river is beautiful. I think it is much superior to Hingham in natural loveliness, or I have seen it at most favorable times. I wish you would allow us to give you a hearty shake of the hand here, & before the spring verdure is gone from our hills too. The Boat you know runs at all hours now, so that you will not be obliged to stay an hour longer than you choose. I am reading Wayland's Elements of Moral Science Miss Weston, and like it much. I understand but little of the theory of Morals, and I am glad to read something from so distinguished a man as Dr Wayland. I did not know that it was customary in writings upon Ethics to draw arguments from Scripture. The Dr. has not done this very much, but he continually refers to the Scriptures in confirmation of the views which he presents. In the chapter upon virtue in imperfect beings, he expresses his peculiar theological views ~~it appears to distinctly~~, it appears to me, ~~to~~ for a scientific manual, to be used in schools and colleges. I like to read the book, however, and as I said before, I am too ignorant of the subject as a science to feel at all qualified to pass judgment upon the work.

I have not seen Lockhart's life of Scott. The reading of that is a pleasure I have in store. I do not find much time to read this season of the year, there is a good deal of running in and out among friends and neighbors here, in the summer & I feel that the heart may be improved by such intercourse, as much as by books. Mr Smith has turned gardener this summer & is as black as a farmer. He is so much interested in his flowers that he visits the garden the moment he is out of school. I think he has quite laid aside his books, and I am happy that he has. Maria sends her love to you and will you remember me as your sincere friend,
Miss Caroline Weston. C. & S. Smith.

L. J. Smith

1837

Miss Caroline Weston.

Boston

Mass

Miss Lincoln.